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PLO'S 'ARAFAT CHAIRS MEETING OF PALESTINIAN FACTIONS

JN082021Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 8 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 8 November--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has presided over a meeting of the general secretaries of the Palestinian resistance factions.

The WAFA news agency said that the meeting dealt with the latest developments in the current situation and the results of the ninth Arab summit conference held recently in Baghdad. It also dealt with the visit a Palestinian delegation under Yasir 'Arafat paid to the Soviet Union.

PLO EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE 'NEW POSITION' AT UNGA DEBATE

LD091009Y London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Nov 78 p 1 LD

[Text] Washington--The ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau has learned from Palestinian sources in Washington that a Palestinian delegation will arrive in New York at the end of November to participate in the forthcoming General Assembly debate.

The delegation will be led by Faruq Qaddumi (Abu al-Lutf), head of the PLO Political Department, and will include leading PLO figures representing different trends inside the PLO.

Observers expect a new Palestinian position to be declared at the assembly meeting, a position that will have an impact on the development of Middle East events.

The Palestinian sources did not rule out the possibility of initiating a U.S.-Palestinian dialog on means to find a way out of the present impasse, particularly following the Baghdad summit conference which adopted a moderate line and left the door open to a peaceful solution.

The sources said that the new considerations stem from the fact that the Arab summit resolutions confirmed the legitimacy of the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people. These resolutions, unanimously adopted by all the Arab countries, have blocked the way to any other party's trying to negotiate the future of the West Bank and the Gaza sector.

U.S. sources have said that the United States understands these developments and is evaluating them with a view to acting on them in the future. The sources affirmed that the only U.S. condition for a dialog with the PLO is the latter's recognition of Security Council Resolution 242. The sources also confirmed that unofficial contacts had earlier been held with Palestinian personalities, either directly or through a third party.

PLO OFFICIAL PRAISES SYRIAN-IRAQI MEETING, ARAB SUMMIT

JN082042Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 8 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad--Talal Naji, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has asserted that the Syrian-Iraqi meeting is a historic one constituting a real and practical reply to As-Sadat's treason and Egypt's deviation from the battle of struggle against the Zionist enemy.

He added that this meeting has given Syria a strategic depth on the political, military and economic levels. The meeting has also provided a strong support for the Palestinian revolution. Naji added: We have been told by President Hafiz al-Asad, President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Saddam Husayn that the essence of the meeting is to defend the Palestine cause.

Naji said that the outcome of the Arab summit in Baghdad represents a victory for the steadfast course opposing capitulation. The mere convocation of an Arab summit means that the Arabs collectively reject As-Sadat's capitulation and his treason of the pan-Arab cause and the Arab nation's aspirations and objectives.

FATAH'S ABU IYAD: PALESTINIAN UNITY TO BE DECLARED

JN091002Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0942 GMT 9 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 9 November--Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, member of the Central Committee of the Fatah movement, has declared that full Palestinian national unity will be declared in the meeting of the Central Council after the blessed Id al-Adha holiday.

Abu Iyad, who was speaking in a popular rally held last night in support of the Baghdad charter between Iraq and Syria, added that the rapprochement between Iraq and Syria is the practical reply to As-Sadat's line. He said that in order for this rapprochement to be complete, Palestine, represented in its resolution, must be at the heart of it.

PALESTINIAN DELEGATION MEETS WITH KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER

JN082024Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 8 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has met with a Palestinian delegation under Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. The two sides discussed the reactions to the Arab summit conference.

In a statement to journalists, Faruq Qaddumi said Palestinian-Kuwaiti views were identical in appraising the positive reactions concerning the outcome of the Arab summit. He said that the Arab nation has received the outcome of the summit with complete satisfaction.

Qaddumi said a Palestinian delegation will visit Amman after the 'Id holidays to discuss ways to consolidate Jordanian-Palestinian relations. Qaddumi said that the Jordanian-Palestinian meeting constitutes one of the positive results of the Arab summit conference. He asserted that other Arab contacts will take place to strengthen the Arab front.

Qaddumi said that if President Anwar as-Sadat signs a separate peace agreement with Israel, a committee will implement the executive procedures that have been adopted by the Baghdad summit in this regard. He added that these procedures pertain to boycotting the Egyptian regime and the transfer of the Arab League headquarters from Cairo.

KUWAIT

U.S. DOLLAR POLICY SEEN AS PRESSURE ON OPEC OIL PRICES

LD091003Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 7 Nov 78 pp 1, 14 LD

[Text] The financial editor writes: Unofficial local financial sources have no doubt that the recent U.S. measures to strengthen the dollar are only a temporary political move aimed at putting psychological pressure on the oil countries not to increase oil prices substantially. These sources believe that the dollar is therefore intended to fluctuate until the OPEC Ministerial Council meeting on 20 December. The idea is to make the oil countries and the world believe that the dollar is improving and that therefore there is no justification for increasing oil prices substantially to make up for the loss sustained by OPEC member states.

What strengthens the belief in unofficial financial circles that the recent U.S. monetary measures are merely a temporary game aimed at pressuring OPEC countries is the fact that in the past few days the United States has intensified its contacts with OPEC countries. It has dispatched the assistant secretary of state for economic affairs to the oil countries and will also be sending Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal--whose trip will be preceded by letters from President Carter to some of the major oil-producing countries--to persuade these countries not to press for a substantial increase in oil prices.

Therefore, these unofficial financial circles received the recent U.S. monetary measures leading to the rise in the dollar rate with great reservations, believing that they are only seasonal measures and that soon after the OPEC conference the dollar will again be weak in the international market.

Local commercial market circles, particularly those directly connected with the international market, believe that the U.S. dollar game is aimed at improving the U.S. trading position and boosting the competitiveness of U.S. exports (with a cheap dollar) vis-a-vis Japanese and European exports (with higher exchange rates).

This aim has been partly achieved. Also, there has been a rush into foreign capital investments on the U.S. market. Local commercial market circles express the belief that the present disturbance in world trade will exacerbate next year to the point of developing into an international cold war in commercial fields.

FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH PLO'S QADDUMI

LD081805Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah conferred this morning with head of the PLO Political Office Faruq Qaddumi who was accompanied by the Fatah representative in Kuwait and the Gulf, Salim az-Za'mun; the organization's political adviser, Basil 'Aql; and the acting director of the organization's office in Kuwait, Awni Battash.

Qaddumi told journalists after the meeting that they had discussed reactions to the Baghdad Arab summit. He said that viewpoints were identical in evaluating the positive reactions and the complete satisfaction these reactions have brought about with regard to the results, and the impact of this on the morale of the Arab nations.

SAUDI ARABIA

TEXT OF DEPUTY OIL MINISTER'S INTERVIEW

AU0818599Y Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 8 Nov 78 p 7 AU

[Erich Hoorn report on a DIE PRESSE interview with 'Abdul al-Aziz at-Turki, deputy oil minister of Saudi Arabia, in Riyad; date not given]

[Text] Riyad--An indexing of the oil price is strictly rejected by Shaykh 'Abdul al-Aziz at-Turki, deputy oil minister of Saudi Arabia, because "in the late 1980's the price of oil will go up much faster than that of industrial products because of the oil shortage." In a recent talk with Austrian journalists in Riyad he said he would also prefer a lower oil production "but, since we have the responsibility for supplying the world with oil, we have no other choice." In the next few years Saudi Arabia wants to develop natural gas processing with gigantic financial expenditures.

The OPEC conference scheduled for December, which is to decide on next year's oil price, according to the Saudi Arabian deputy oil minister, will be guided by the maxim "that the price increase must not slow down the economic growth of the industrialized states."

Also, the billing can only be made in dollars in the future: "We are convinced that the dollar is a strong currency because it is backed by a powerful economy." At-Turki, who usually accompanies Oil Minister Shaykh Yamani on all his trips abroad and who is therefore regarded as a gray eminence, attributes the dollar weakness to speculations with the U.S. currency. He refers to Saudi Arabia's losses resulting from the dwindling dollar exchange rate as "very high."

He says that the question of a clearing unit for the oil calculation is still undecided, in other words, that it is still undecided whether the calculation should be based in the future on a currency package or on the dollar as before.

For the late 1980's the expert expects an oil supply falling far short of demand. The market forces will lead to strong price increases, he says. For this reason alone, the shaykh rejects an indexing of the oil price tied to industrial products prices, arguing that the increase of the oil price in the late 1980's will be much stronger than world inflation.

In view of the high oil production caused by current demand, Saudi Arabia is accumulating too much money, whose value is constantly declining. Production is limited by the government to 8.5 million barrels, but the actual production can be up to 10 million barrels.

At-Turki does not show himself greatly impressed by the reports published by the CIA and the Swedish Petrostudies Institute that the USSR wants to increase its oil exports to the West: "Should Moscow actually be able to supply more oil to the world market, this would only make us happy, because then we could curb our own production."

He expresses concern over the strong increase of capital goods prices, attributing them at least partly to the strong demand of OPEC countries for new industrial plants. "The demand is so great that the industrialized states cannot supply these plants quickly enough, and this leads to strong price increases. However, we have to pay these high prices--we have no choice."

Saudi Arabia, he says, has already taken over 100 percent of the ARAMCO Oil Company (Arabian-American Oil Company).

Although this deal has already been concluded financially, the whole transaction has not yet been carried out juridically "because of lack of time on our part," he comments laconically. However, the Americans are to stay on in the country and will participate in the oil production.

Besides ARAMCO, two other oil companies are operating in Saudi Arabia on a rather limited scale: the Getty Oil Company in the neutral zone with Kuwait in off-shore production, and the Japan-Arabian Oil Company, also in the neutral zone, with on-shore drillings.

In the future, Saudi Arabia wants to export more oil products. This is why the refinery capacity is being expanded. Nevertheless, crude oil will continue to be the main export commodity.

The country would also like to become more active in the natural gas business. At present the natural gas gained in the oil production must be flared. This is why a project for the production, processing and exportation of natural gas has been launched. The whole project will cost $14 billion and is to be completed by 1982 or 1983 at the latest. Thus a gigantic natural gas pipeline will be built from the eastern province on the Gulf to the Red Sea. It will supply the domestic industry with natural gas. Moreover, it is planned to build gigantic liquifying plants and then to export the natural gas by boats. At-Turki names West Europe, the United States and Japan as potential customers.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES PLO'S 'ARAFAT

LD091112Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 9 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Before noon today, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal received at his residence PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat who arrived in the kingdom yesterday to perform the pilgrimage to Mecca.

YEMEN--YAR

PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED ON YEMENI, ARAB AFFAIRS

JN081855Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Nov 78 JN

[Text of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's interview with the Yemeni paper ATH-THAWRAH; date not given--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Question: Mr President, what is your view of the Arab situation in light of the Baghdad summit results?

Answer: Before the Baghdad summit, differences had almost paralyzed the Arabs. Thank God, our brothers have become aware of the consequences of the continuation of these differences. The Baghdad summit, therefore, was essential. Regardless of the results of this conference, the important thing is we always try to narrow the gap of differences and, if possible, eliminate these differences through frank talk and open-mindedness.

As a state and a people, our position on all Arab issues is clear and frank. We are with Arab unanimity in the interest of our nation and its just issues. In his speech at the Baghdad summit, our chief delegate, Al-Aqadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, the vice president, declared our absolute support for the Palestinian people's just struggle.

Question: How do you evaluate the current situation between both parts of Yemen?

Answer: The existing dispute is not only between us and the despotic, conspiratorial communist regime in the south, but also between our people in the whole of Yemen and the atheist clique in power there. The cause of the existing dispute is that while we want Yemen to live in peace and harmony and to be unified under a national democratic government achieving the slogan of a unified Arab Moslem Yemen, the ruling clique in Aden, by virtue of its subservience to foreign forces, does not want that. Thus, for several years now, it has exported saboteurs and the implements of sabotage to our country. It has also used all forms and methods of terrorism against our people there. As a result, large numbers of our people have sought refuge in our part of the homeland and others have gone abroad. And, at a time when that lackey clique is claiming that it upholds the principles and objectives of the immortal 26 September revolution, we find that it is conspiring against this very resolution.

Question: What are the main domestic issues now occupying your attention?

Answer: They are many. Foremost is the housing problem. We are trying to solve this problem by making the government sponsor housing schemes which will be implemented quickly. I have asked the government to expedite the building of residential areas in San'a', Ta'izz and Al-Hudaydah. This is the first step to be followed by others. We have also ordered the issuance of a decision freezing rents for 1 year to enable us to enact a law defining the relationship between the landlord and the tenant in a clearer and fairer manner. Other issues occupying my mind are the need to lay down the necessary bases for building the state of law and order, expanding the exercise of democracy and finding adequate solutions to the problems of inflation and high cost of living. I always stress to the government to pay attention to these issues. I would also like the [word indistinct] committee work more efficiently, especially since these committees have patriotic elements which are known for their capability and competence.

Question: What are the main obstacles to development in light of the implementation of the first 5-year development plan?

Answer: As the brother prime minister has pointed out, the implementation of the development plan is proceeding successfully. But the main obstacles, in my opinion, are the economic problems normally faced by developing countries, the continuous increase in the prices of manufactured goods and shortage of labor. Whatever the problems, we are bound to overcome them in the end.

Question: The Municipal Council Law is considered an important gain on the path of democracy. What are the guarantees that it will be implemented?

Answer: The purpose of this law is to give these councils full responsibility in playing their role in matters related to planning, cleanliness, projects [words indistinct]. The law has given the councils full responsibility out of our belief that the responsibility of building the country does not rest with one person or a group of powers but with everyone.

Question: It is said that the current administrative division of the Republic's provinces is unsound, because some villages are situated far away from the provinces to which they belong. What is your opinion?

Answer: This is correct. Since we are in the process of construction on all fronts, we will reconsider this situation, God willing.

UNITY FRONT CONDEMNS PDRY SOCIALIST PARTY

NC0815GMY Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 8 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 November--The Yemen Unity Front which is opposed to the Marxist regime of Aden has affirmed that the Yemeni Socialist Party in the PDRY is merely a tool for implementing Soviet political, ideological and expansionist schemes.

In its statement, the Yemeni Unity Front said that the Yemeni Socialist Party is a political, ideological and terrorist extension of the National Front organization in South Yemen, and that it expressed that party's politically hostile stand toward the countries in the Arabian Peninsula and the entire Arab nation. The statement added that the National Front's announcement related to its affiliation to the Marxist and proletarian international identity, its emphasis on the need to strengthen the PDRY's relations with COMECON, and its casual reference to the establishment of normal relations with the Arab countries is a clear indication that this party is embracing the Soviet strategic interests which oppose Arab national interests. The front appealed to the various national elements and factions in North and South Yemen to adopt unified national political stand against the establishment of this party.

The front also called on the various Arab national governments to support and aid the unified national opposition against the Marxist regime in the PDRY.

PRESIDENT ORDERS RELEASE OF 67 POLITICAL DETAINEES

JNJ82059Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Nov 78 JN

[Text] On the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha and out of President Salih's concern to provide a number of families with a joyful atmosphere during the blessed 'Id al-Adha period, the brother leader Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic and the commander in chief of the armed forces, has ordered the release of 67 detainees apprehended for suspicion of involvement in the abortive coup which took place on the morning of 15 October 1978.

The decision of the brother president and leader to release these detainees is another proof of the tolerance and wisdom of our national command under President Salih and of the spirit of clemency and human feeling which this command enjoys.

AL-BAZ: FUTURE TALKS DEPEND ON ISRAELI RESPONSE

NC0817422 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 8 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 November--Dr al-Baz [member of the Egyptian delegation to the Washington talks] told reporters at Cairo International Airport before leaving for Washington that U.S. Secretary of State Vance will come to the area for talks with both sides. He added that if Vance gives us the impression that the Israelis are prepared to follow a positive line, we will be in a position to think about meeting with the Israeli side.

Dr al-Baz said he believes that the Egyptian proposals are based on such firm foundations that the Israeli side could not reject them.

He added that the Israeli foreign minister has announced he will convey these proposals to the Israeli Cabinet for more discussion.

Asked whether he expects another meeting very soon with the Israeli side, he said: If after it discusses our proposals again on the basis of the clarifications we submitted to Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Cabinet makes a positive decision, then we will be willing to hold another meeting.

Dr al-Baz noted in his statement that it is not a question of surrender by one party or the other in the negotiations, but a question of reaching an undisputed, clear and specific understanding so that we can achieve progress during the coming weeks.

Dr al-Baz affirmed that the Egyptian delegation does not intend to leave Washington until such an understanding has been reached. He added that he has no idea how long he will stay there.

Dr al-Baz said in conclusion: I have made it clear that we must continue talking in a precise language which cannot be disputed and which does not allow different interpretations.

Al-Baz Interview

NC0911552Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1038 GMT 9 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 November--Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary in the Foreign Ministry and member of the Egyptian delegation to the Washington talks, has stated that Egypt's ability to influence Israel will continue and even increase after the peace treaty is signed, for several reasons:

1. The international support for Egypt will double after the treaty is signed because the treaty will prove to all states in the world that Egypt will go all the way to establish peace.

2. The United States feels that it has a special responsibility to solve the Palestinian problem. This feeling will increase after the treaty is signed.

3. The voices of the Israeli elements advocating moderation on the question of the Palestinian entity will rise after the treaty is signed.

4. The measures which Israel must adopt in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the next few weeks will increase the effectiveness of the Egyptian influence on Israel because they will create a new condition in the area which conforms with the Egyptian view on the way to end the subservience of the West Bank and Gaza to Israel and create a Palestinian political identity.

Dr Usamah al-Baz stressed that Egypt's commitment to the national cause will increase because a strong Egypt, after liberating its territory, will be in a better position to stand with the Arab people in their just confrontation of the Israeli occupation and domination. He added that the Egyptian people will not consider that their aims have been realized until every inch of the occupied Arab territory is liberated.

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR magazine, Dr al-Baz said that contacts are continuing between Egyptian officials and leading Palestinian figures in the West Bank and Gaza. He added: The dialog with these leaders is intensive and differs from the dialog with the other sides because Egypt is dealing with them on the premise that we are in one trench, that they are our comrades along the same road and our partners in fate, and because we know precisely what would lead to the realization of their aims and attainment of their rights.

AS-SADAT GIVES INTERVIEW TO KUWAITI AS-SIYASAH

NC081512Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 8 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 November--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has granted an interview to Ahmad al-Jarallah, the chief editor of the Kuwaitit newspaper AS-SIYASAH. In the interview, the president analyzes and explains the latest developments in the Middle East situation.

Question: Your Excellency the President, is the entire world wrong and you right, or are you wrong and it right? You are meeting great opposition in the Arab homeland. This opposition is led by 22 states and you are now standing alone. Are they all wrong and you right? Give me an explanation. I am not talking to you only as a journalists but as someone who also conveys the views of your opponents.

Answer: The truth is that I am not exaggerating when I say that I disagree with you regarding the 22 states. I say that there are 22 rulers, but not 22 states, because you are well aware of our Arab courtesy. For example, you cannot say that King Hassan is an opponent, nor can you say that the sultan of Oman is an opponent or that Numayri is an opponent. You cannot say that Siad Barre is an opponent or that Mauritania is an opponent. It is not 22 states which are opponents. This is a kind of nervousness and emotionalism which we have inherited. Even when we say a number of Arab states, I do not like having the peoples treated as their rulers. Never. There are many peoples who do not share the views of their rulers. Is this not so? The question is: Do you feel satisfied with what you are doing or not? The fact is that I am fully satisfied with what I am doing.

New ideas must always meet with resistance. Until last November, we, the Arab nation, followed the example of the ostrich which buries its head in the sand, believing that by doing so it will be safe. The world around us laughed at us. If you ask my opinion, I would say that what I am doing might be well ahead of its time.

However, one basic factor governs my actions: this is that I personally must be convinced of what I am doing and then see that my people are convinced of it. If both my people and I are convinced, then I act at once.

Some might say that I follow a new method in politics. They spoke about this method in the Nobel prize announcement when they said that I follow a new method in politics--electric shock treatment. This might be true, but as I told you, as long as I am convinced and as long as my people agree, I will not give sufficient time to the others to realize what I am doing. I seek my people's approval of what I am doing not only for Egypt but also for the Arab cause as a whole. When I say my people in Egypt, I do not talk like the war rich who act according to the logic of the war rich and believe that money is everything and that money has made them into somebody. No, my people are noble and they safeguard the Arab cause and the Arab course before safeguarding the Egyptian course, because it is automatically part of the Arab course. Furthermore, my people shoulder a big historical responsibility. It is not the war rich who gave us this reponsibility and they cannot isolate us from it because Egypt is the mind, heart and arm of the Arab nation.

Question: Your Excellency the President, when you refused to receive the delegation [from the Baghdad summit], did you do so as a matter of principle or because it was a lower level delegation than you expected?

Answer: No, no. This is definitely a matter of principle. Why? I do not know why they have to be emotional when they sit there and, I regret to say, are rude to Egypt, although I do not like to use this expression. This conference was rude to Egypt. Despite this, do you ask me to receive a delegation from this conference to thank it for the impudence of Baghdad radio and the other radios? The conference was held in Baghdad. No, this has nothing to do with the level of the delegation. I said first that in essence there is a matter which has escaped the attention of the conferees. I did not know how. They acted as the PLO acted once during the second [Egyptian-Israeli] disengagement. Forced by the Syrians, the Palestinians issued a statement. Yasir 'Arafat told me later that he was forced to do so by Damascus. This happened in Damascus. In its statement, the PLO said that Egypt was exchanging a piece of land for a principle. The Palestinians made their decision. After issuing the statement, the PLO decided to send a delegation headed by Khalid al-Fahum. The next day I told them: Sorry, I will not receive the delegation. If I had agreed to receive it, it would have meant that I actually agreed to exchange a piece of land for a principle. This is what was rude in their statement. I said: I am sorry, but if the entire PLO Executive Committee were to come then I would sit down and talk to it. The same thing happened this time. I am stating this to make things clear. Naturally, I was not prepared to meet a delegation which had met in a capital that allocates a radio station to be rude to Egypt and attack it from all directions. My position was: You agreed to sit there in this atmosphere. I cannot receive you whomever you may be. However, I said: If the conferees in Baghdad want to come as kings and presidents, then I will be ready to meet with them and answer all their questions.

Question: If this meeting had taken place in Cairo as you suggested, would it have meant that you might have suspended the Camp David agreements?

Answer: No. I want to tell you something. As I told you before, it is not a question of the Camp David agreements, nor the initiative before that, nor the disengagement. This has been going on since the battle, through the first disengagement, the second disengagement, the initiative and Camp David. Anything. It is regrettable. Our decisions stem from a scientific and national reality and we speak the language of the time. So, if they had come here I would have explained things to them. Bear in mind that I did send them a full explanation when I returned from Camp David, despite the fact that they did not bother to wait until my return to Cairo before issuing their convulsive statements while I was still in Washington. It had been my custom to send my aides, headed by Husni Mubarak, to explain matters. The Arab world was usually Mubarak's share, while other ministers visited and toured other areas.

Well, when I returned they were already on the attack. They began their attacks while I was in Washington, not even back in Cairo, and they had not yet received these documents--that is, the two Camp David agreements. They started making these frantic statements. Despite this, when I returned I made an analysis, put it in writing and signed it. Every one of them has it and they can publish it tomorrow. Why don't they publish it? Why don't they discuss it? The only one who sent a reply to this analysis was King Husayn, but at the end of his reply he said in one line, and very politely: We do not want a separate action or a separate agreement. At the time I was on vacation--the 10-day vacation I took after I returned. So it was Husni Mubarak who received the message. He sent it back to King Husayn, and it was not submitted to me. Husni told me that he [Husayn] referred to a separate settlement. I told him we have a peasant proverb which goes like this: "Tell them there is a bull and they will say why don't you milk it." So here we are telling them that you cannot milk a bull; they say no, there is a separate settlement. Well, fill your bellies with [talk about] a separate settlement.

[Question] Their objections are, first, of course, that this is a separate solution, and second, that Egypt will be the Trojan horse into the Arab economic market; that it will open the countries to the Israelis, who will be active economically and diplomatically and who may enter the Arab world through Egypt. This is one of their interpretations of the Camp David agreements. What is your excellency's opinion?

Answer: This is a tragicomedy. A separate solution! I do not know, are some so stupid as to think that Egypt [sentence not finished] It is one of two things: either they think that we are stupid and do not understand anything, or that we do analyze. I think they are naive, because there is nothing in the past to prove that any power, even a big power, was able to defeat us. We (?were steadfast) in protecting our rights and our aims. Do they imagine that I say there will be no separate settlement while intending to achieve a separate settlement? This was never my method. In the past I said that I would go to war; all you Arabs did not believe it and had your doubts. But I did go to war.

They raised hell about our opposition to the Soviet Union. We never opposed the Soviet Union when it was honoring its commitments to us. When it did not honor its commitments I expelled 17,000 Soviet experts in 1 week. Egypt has proved itself. It would have been a different matter if Egypt's way were to talk of aims behind closed doors and then say something else outside, over the microphone. I think it has been proved that during the 8 years I have been in power I have never said something and then backed down on it. I have never said one thing behind closed doors and something different over the microphone. No, Egypt has one policy, one face. If they think we are incapable, they are mistaken. The October War showed them that we are not incapable and that we are capable of safeguarding our objectives. They can ask the big powers about us when it comes to our aims and our principles. I do not mean that I am equal to the big powers. No. Blessed is he who knows his real size, but I am up to it and more when it concerns me. I say that the proof of this is that I expelled 17,000 Soviet experts in 1 week. [We were capable] in the October War, the first disengagement, the second disengagement and all that protects our rights. As for a separate settlement, no.

If I were after a separate solution I would not have needed all this time. There would have been no need for the November initiative, or for Camp David or anything, because it is known, it is obvious that the Israelis would a hundred times rather conclude a separate settlement with me so that the arena would be free of the main power, Egypt. We have said all this and we said no [to a separate peace settlement] from the very beginning, in my speech to the Knesset. The problem is that they do not read or analyze or understand anything. They did not read my speech to the Knesset and the Israeli people and the whole world. That speech is on record. [In it I said] that this time we are not after a separate agreement, a third disengagement, or a partial solution, but that we are after comprehensive peace, and that comprehensive peace can only be achieved if the Palestinian problem, which is the core of the issue, is resolved. Go back to the records and you will find these words in my speech to the Knesset a year ago. Then I said the same thing before going to Camp David, I said it at Camp David and I am still saying it, but nobody wants to listen. I tell you there will be no separate settlement. The rejectionist front, as if it had a monopoly on intelligence and brightness, cries wolf and appeals to the Arab brothers. As if intelligence in the Arab nation were confined to them, the rejectionists claim that I am after a separate settlement, and that I am keeping this fact from them. The complex about courtesy and the complex of emotionalism and convulsion must be removed when it comes to discussing the fate of nations.

Question: When you were at Camp David, you nearly walked out. Then a meeting between you and President Carter made you change your mind and decide to stay. Can you shed some light on this meeting?

Answer: Yes, the meeting took place on a Friday, I think. I have said this, have I not? What happened was that there was a prelude to this meeting or to that day, Friday. On Thursday evening I invited Dayan to my lodge. Dayan spent over an hour with me. He began to speak. I told him: I have asked you here to hear what you have to say. We had by then been there 10 or 11 days and it was clear that there was no clear indication of a solution on the horizon, so I summoned Dayan and I said to him: I would like to hear what you have to say. He said: I will tell you the truth because you have accustomed us to this [truthfulness].

Regrettably, it was Dayan who said this while the Arabs said: We do not understand. Not only Dayan but the whole world is saying: You are a man of your word. You have one face, but the Arabs do not.

It is those who talk about being two-faced who are two-faced. I am not two-faced at all. Dayan told me: In international diplomacy you have got us accustomed to the fact that you are a man with one face. I want to tell you that Begin is undoubtedly a strong man but he cannot confront either the Knesset nor the Israeli people on the question of the Israeli settlements on Egyptian territory.

The principle of the settlements, as we all know, is rejected. Even the Americans are now either covering up the matter or not mentioning it at all. What does Carter's United States mean now? We criticized the pre-Carter United States, in the times of Johnson and even before Johnson. But as for Carters' United States, we must get used to frankly giving everyone the credit due to him and tell him: You erred here in such and such a way and did well there. Dayan told me: The man [Begin] is strong but we are powerless regarding the question of the settlements. Then he spoke about the situation in Israel.

These are paragraphs from the important interview with President as-Sadat which the Kuwaiti AS-SIYSAH will publish tomorrow, as written by its chief editor, Arab writer Ahmad al-Jarallah. We will carry the full text of this interview tomorrow.

AS-SADAT ARRIVES IN ISMAILIA 8 NOVEMBER

NC081555Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1452 GMT 8 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Ismailia, 8 November--This afternoon President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat arrived at Ismailia, where he is due to spend the 'Id al-Adha holidays. He will perform the feast prayers in the town of Qantarah ash-Sharqiyah, together with citizens of Sinai.

The president will also attend Friday prayers at al-Jannaz mosque, which is situated in 'Abbas square in Ismailia. This is a modest area, where the president stayed during the forties when he was struggling against the British occupation forces.

Upon his arrival there, the president was received by the governor of Ismailia, Maj Gen Mahmud Zaki 'Abd al-Latif, the chairman of the Suez Canal Board, Eng Ahmad Mashhur; and the commander of the 2d Field Army , Maj Gen 'Abd Rabb an-Nabi Hafiz.

PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT MAMDUH SALIM RETURNS TO CAIRO

NC090642Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Presidential assistant Mamdun Salim returned to Cairo last night after a visit to the United States. During his visit he received the prize granted to President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat by the society of the Family of Man, in appreciation for the president's efforts for the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

Mamduh Salim's 1-week tour included a number of European states.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER DISCUSSES DECENTRALIZATION

NC081650Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Minister of State for Local Government Eng Sulayman Mutawalli issued a decision today providing for the delegation of Local Government Ministry powers to the provinces and all the way down to the districts and villages. This, he said, is in accordance with President Anwar as-Sadat's instructions that full authority be given to local governments to enable it to play its part in enriching the integral development of local societies.

The minister said that the governors have been given all the powers of the minister of local government. He added that the local government secretariat's only remaining responsibility is planning and following up.

The minister also said that the question of amending the local government law and bylaws is now under study to eliminate any difficulty standing in the way of local units.

In conclusion, Engineer Mutawalli said that the 1979 budgets for the provinces will be prepared so as to insure integration of the various departments in every province.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM: BAGHDAD CONFERENCE REPRESENTS MINORITY

LD081243Y Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 4 Nov 78 p 8 LD

[Mustafa Amin article" "Why Not Move the Arab League to Moscow?"]

[Excerpts] Those meeting in Baghdad are a minority among the Arab peoples. As for the majority of the Arab peoples, it is absent. We have not yet heard of a majority being isolated, or of a minority waiting to impose its views on the majority.

The inhabitants of Egypt and Sudan alone represent more than 60 percent of the Arab people. If the rulers of the rejectionist states held free elections in their countries they would not obtain one percent of the votes.

The summit is not being attended by King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, or King Houari Boumediene of Algeria or King Hassan of Morocco or President Numayri of Sudan or Sultan Qabus of Oman, or YAR President 'Ali Abdallah Salim or President Anwar as-Sadat. Therefore, this is a meeting of some, not all, of the Arab kings and presidents.

Those who attended came after being threatened: They were threatened with assassination and bombing. Some came simply because they hate Egypt. A third group came as a representative of the Soviet Union to demand the breaking of relations with the United States and the embracing of the Soviet Union. A fourth group came to try to avert a catastrophe that could ultimately tear the Arab nation apart.

As he watches President al-Bakr's angelic expression, President Hafiz al-Asad cannot forget how the Iraqi Government used to send daily emissaries carrying bombs and explosives to kill him. If such precious gifts could not reach the Syrian president, they would be sent to kill his security chief or the president of the university or any communist party leader.

When the Palestinians look at President al-Bakr's angelic face they cannot forget their dead, whom the Iraqi Ba'th Party killed in Kuwait, London and Beirut. None of those sitting at the conference table has not been the target of a plot or an intrigue or an assassination attempt by one of the governments sitting at the same table.

But they must forget all these crimes out of hatred for Egypt. Those who want to isolate Egypt have a right to hate it and curse it. Egypt betrayed the Arab cause when it abolished concentration camps and summary courts. In every one of those countries terror is the base of the rule. None of the rejectionist rulers can stay 24 hours in office without keeping scaffolds erect concentration camps open, summary courts operating and whips lashing.

Does anyone in Algeria, Iraq, Syria, Libya, or South Yemen dare to open his mouth in support of the Camp David resolutions? In Algeria they would put him in prison for 14 years, as former President Ben Bella is imprisoned; in Libya they would kidnap him, as they kidnapped Imam Musa as-Sadr; in Syria they would throw him in Al-Mazzah jail, as they did to President al-Atasi; and in South Yemen they would place him in a cell just like former President Qahtan ash-Sha'bi, or murder him the same way they murdered Salim Rubayi' 'Ali.

They want to punish Egypt because it got rid of Soviet influence and expelled Soviet experts. Egypt did not go bankrupt nor did it submit--contrary to Moscow's policy, which wanted Egypt to be forever hitched to the Soviet bandwagon.

Egypt did not substitute Washington for Moscow and refuses to replace Soviet influence with U.S. influence. It wants every Arab country to get rid of the major powers' influence and control, no matter to which camp the state exercising such influence belongs.

What is happening today is not an attempt to isolate Egypt but to do away with the Arab peoples' independence by hitching them to the communist bandwagon.

Some of those meeting in Baghdad imagine that we are a naive people and that therefore they can fool us. They claim that their intention is to isolate the Egyptian regime and not Egypt, and to cut off Arab aid to As-Sadat and not to Egypt. They imagine that if they cut off aid to Egypt the Egyptian people will starve and will then go out on the streets to cheer them. They have long forgotten that the U.S. Government cut off aid for many long years but only won the hatred of the Egyptian people. This people, whose history dates back 7000 years, cannot be bought or sold or pawned. If they do not wish to harm the Egyptian people, why do they demand economic boycott of Egypt and refusal to buy its products. If they do not wish to harm the Egyptian people, why do they demand that the Arab League be moved out of Egypt. Why don't they say frankly that they want to transfer the Arab League from Cairo to Moscow? That way they will be saving the expense of sending orders by telephone, Telex and telegraph.

It is an irony that some of the Arab leaders should choose the occasion of the "Feast of Love" to declare their hatred for Egypt. It is as if, with the daggers they are plunging in Egypt's back, they want to say "beloved Egypt."

AL-AHRAM SCORES KUWAIT'S ATTITUDE AT BAGHDAD

LDC81141Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 Nov 78 pp 1, 3 LD

['Ali Hamdi al-Jammal article: "Dotting the I's for the Conferring Parties in Baghdad"]

[Excerpts] Anyone following the statements made by some of those meeting in Baghdad today cannot but be astonished and feel pain because Arab thinking has reached this level of clowning, overturning of facts and misrepresentation.

The amazing thing is that those who make such statements and declarations are aware more than anybody else that they are not equal to the statements they are making. This is where the danger lies, and it is the cause of the catastrophe which has befallen the Arabs in their contemporary history. There is a group of people who still insist on aggravating the catastrophe without realizing the consequences that might result from it.

If those indulging in counterbids imagine that their own circumstances compel them to make such statements without any regard to their impact on others, then this is an even bigger catastrophe. I will content myself here with citing two examples of such statements, which arouse more pity than scorn for those who make them.

One of these statements was made by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He said that he will fight Israel to obtain his rights even if this leads to fighting the United States. The other statement was by Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar in a comment on the Iraqi-Syrian agreement. He said: From now on we will not differ; we and Iraq will assume our respective roles at the summit conference. Since Baghdad is hosting the conference the Iraqis will play the doves while we, the Syrians, play the hawks.

I do not think such statements need to be commented on; such statements are self-explanatory and reveal a certain kind of Arab thinking.

On the other hand Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, deputy chairman of the PLO, said in a statement that if the United States will hold a dialog with the PLO then there will be peace in the area and there will be a Palestinian state.

Whom shall we belive? The PLO chairman, who threatens war against the United States? Or his deputy, who says dialog with the United States will lead to peace?

With regard to Iraq, it wants to break its isolation from the Arabs and at the same time it wants to involve Syria. Also, according to the Iraqi oil minister, it wants to increase the oil price, something which Ssudi Arabia has rejected more than once.

With regard to Syria, it is trying through this conference to strengthen its negotiating position. In other words, it wants the United States to understand that all the Arabs support it and that the Palestinians are under its control, so that it can bargain over Lebanese, Jordanian and Palestinian territories.

Each of these two parties is working for its own interests. There are no hawks and doves among them. Rather, they are rats trying to fool the cats.

Going back to the rest of those participating in the Baghdad conference, last week I divided them into groups and explained the aim of each group in attending the conference. Today I will be more frank and name names where last week I spoke indirectly.

One of the groups I mentioned now includes the State of Kuwait, which has joined the group with great flourish and has taken its seat among its members openly and obviously. For a long time, even before the initiative, the Kuwaiti press attacked Egypt without restraint. Nothing in Egypt pleases the Kuwaitit press. Kuwaitit newspapers report under sensational banner headlines any incident taking place in any country, even Kuwait itself.

For example, Kuwaiti newspapers talk about democracy in Egypt while they make no reference whatever to "democracy" in Kuwait. Kuwaiti writers raise no questions about the Kuwait National Assembly, which has been disbanded, nor do they ask about the date of its reconvening.

As we read what the Kuwaiti papers write, we cannot help wondering what the Kuwait Government is doing about what is being published in its papers. There is a law in Kuwait that empowers the government to seize any paper that attacks any Arab state. Kuwaiti papers are full of slander against everything in Egypt, yet not once did the authorities take action to protect Egypt from the slander against everything in Egypt, yet not once did the authorities take action to protect Egypt from the slander that fills the columns of Kuwaiti papers. Is not this attitude by the authorities an indication that they approve and encourage such attacks on Egypt?

The Kuwaiti foreign minister submitted a working paper to the Baghdad conference which included the following, among other things: The establishment of an Arab fund to support the countries confronting Israel. The capital and objectives of this fund are to be determined by the Baghdad summit. All the Arab countries will contribute to this fund, each according to its resources.

Egypt will remain, as it has always been in the past, a major component of the Arab nation. No one denies the role the Egyptian people played in reforming the Arab world and the valuable sacrifices they made for many years. The door will remain open for Egypt to resume its natural role within the Arab ranks at any moment. When it does so Egypt's brothers must once again offer it their support and help it shoulder its heavy burdens, within the framework to be approved by the conference for all the countries confronting Israel.

This is Kuwait's opinion and its outlook on the problem--the outlook of a rich state wallowing in oil money and imagining that with this money it can buy people's dignity.

There is something that Kuwait and all the other Arab countries, regardless of their attitude at the Baghdad conference, should know: The cohesion between the Egyptian people and the leadership is organic; the people fully believe in their leadership; and this leadership acts under the inspiration of the Egyptian people's aspirations and hopes.

Therefore, if Kuwait and the other countries participating in the conference imagine that they can drive a wedge between the Egyptian people and their leadership they are grossly mistaken. I do not think it consistent with Arab ethics and chivalry for an Arab country to resort to the same means as colonialism resorted to many years ago and which proved a failure.

I would have expected a working paper from Kuwait devoting all the oil money to the establishment of a powerful Kuwaiti army to participate with the Arab countries' armies in the battle against Israel, instead of being content with sending token units to the front to make the people believe Kuwait is participating in the fight against Israel.

Kuwait's role is not to buy Egyptian blood for shedding in the battle against Israel. Egyptian blood is not cheaper than Kuwaiti blood.

Let us speak even more frankly, because never have Arabs been in greater need of frank talk:

Kuwait is going to Baghdad because it is afraid of another Iraqi military invasion of Kuwaiti territory. Kuwait rejects the Camp David resolutions because they make no reference to the fate of the Palestinians living in Kuwait.

If the Kuwaiti Government had been sure that Iraq would not attack it and that the establishment of a Palestinian state would insure the return to the West Bank of Palestinians residing in Kuwait, it would not have gone to the Baghdad conference or objected to the Camp David agreement.

Nevertheless, we are not trying to drive a wedge between the Kuwaiti Government and its people, despite the fact that we know much--facts and not imaginings--which, if said, would arouse the people's anger against their government, but we refrain from stooping to such a level. At no time did we ever fish in troubled waters, despite the fact that such waters exist in many parts of the Arab region.

Whatever the Baghdad conference resolutions may be and however they may be filled with rhetoric and enthusiasm and with funds for confrontation, we challenge the conference to make any decisions that their proponents can implement. We assure them that whatever decisions they may take against Egypt, we have been and we will forever remain the influential power in the Arab world and the leaders of its civilization and future.

There remains an important matter of which the countries bearing a grudge [against Egypt] at the Baghdad conference must be aware: The Kuwaiti papers have reported that at the end of the meeting Saddam Husayn will go to Moscow to submit to the Soviet leadership the outcome and resolutions of the conference and to obtain Moscow's approval of them.

The situation, as we can see, is clear: The Arab countries are meeting in Baghdad under a Ba'thist umbrella and will issue resolutions which they will submit to the Soviet Union.

Yet they talk about isolating Egypt and then again about preserving its natural position in the Arab arena. Never at any time has Egypt agreed to trust its fate to a group of people who imagine that they can buy the Egyptian people with their money.

Some imagine that Egypt's arm can be twisted by terror, while others belive they can make Egypt live forever in the Soviet orbit. Those who imagine that Egypt--with its wealth, history, civilization and culture--can be shaken by a Kuwaiti working paper or by a naive statement by Ahmad Iskandar or by agents of certain regimes in the PLO, are deluding themselves.

KING HUSAYN, SCHMIDT SPEAK AT LUNCHEON

JN0815S1Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Nov 78 JN

[Text] During a 2-hour meeting they held yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn and FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt discussed the various aspects of the Middle East issue and the international situation.

His Excellency Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, stated that the comprehensive discussions were characterized by a cordial and frank atmosphere. Sharaf added that his majesty had explained to the FRG chancellor Jordan's position as explained by his majesty in the speech he delivered before President Walter Scheel and Chancellor Schmidt. His majesty had also explained Jordan's concept of the next stage, Jordan's assessment of the general situation, and the bases which Jordan considers suitable for achieving a just peace in the area.

The FRG chancellor held a luncheon in honor of His Majesty King Husayn and Queen Nur. The luncheon was attended by the official delegation accompanying his majesty and senior FRG officials.

Schmidt delivered a welcoming speech in which he praised the bilateral relations. He touched on the latest developments in the Middle East and the position of the FRG Government toward these developments.

Schmidt stated that any settlement of the Middle East issue must be based on the following principles: 1) The necessity for Israel to withdraw from the Arab territories occupied in 1967; 2) Respect for the sovereignty and independence and rights of all the peoples of the area and the right to live in peace within recognized borders; 3) The recognition of the Palestinian people's rights in any peaceful settlement. Chancellor Schmidt stressed that this position has been announced more than once in European and international forums.

The FRG chancellor spoke in detail about his country's position toward the peace efforts in the area and the latest developments. Concluding his speech, Schmidt pointed to the bilateral relations and noted that they are based on the mutual respect of sovereignty and independence. Schmidt also stressed the necessity to develop and expand scopes of cooperation in all fields.

In a reply speech, His Majesty King Husayn said that Jordan and the FRG have been linked for a long time by solid relations in the spheres of culture, economy and cooperation. We are proud of these relations which are a basis for sound development in our area.

His majesty added: We in Jordan have found ourselves facing a conflict imposed upon us which was not produced by our people. Jordan has outlined its position toward this conflict with firmness and clarity. We support a comprehensive settlement of the conflict in all aspects. If peace is to be lasting, legitimate requisites for such a peace must exist. Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967 is one of these requisites. The return of Arab sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem--which has a special place in the hearts of people of the world, among whom there are millions of Arabs and Moslems--is another necessary requisite. Such a peace cannot be a lasting one if it does not include the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. This people has suffered much from circumstances imposed upon them.

A just peace should be based on a comprehensive settlement which accepts no fragmentation in order to avoid any ensuing risks. The FRG and the European countries should play an effective role in the efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

It is impermissible that Western Europe adopt a neutral position in a conflict based on the occupation of the territories of one state by another state and the dispersion of hundreds of thousands of our innocent people. It is also impermissible for our friends in Europe to adopt a position of onlooker toward the fate of the Palestinians, who have been transformed into refugees or are still suffering under the yoke of occupation.

His Majesty went on to say in reply to remarks by the FRG chancellor on the latest developments in the area: Before the latest developments, Jordan had been seeking a comprehensive settlement in which all the Arab parties would participate and which would realize the legitimate Arab demands. However, when President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative surprised us, we checked our emotions and said to ourselves that this initiative would perhaps help inform the world about the party responsible for the problem and the Middle East conflict. We learned afterward of the signing of the Camp David agreements. We have studied these agreements with care and we arrived at the conclusion that the bases of these two agreements do not permit us to participate. We have announced that we shall not be bound either by moral or legal responsibility as a result of these agreements since we have not participated in their formulation.

His majesty added: We do not bargain over the land of the Palestinians or over Arab Jerusalem, which is not the property of its sons alone but the property of millions in the Arab and Islamic world. His majesty added: In the past we agreed to UN Resolution 242 on the basis that it achieves the regaining of all the Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and insures the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. This is our position. We have also been seeking to convene the Geneva conference on the bases of a unified Arab delegation with the participation of the Palestinians, who are the party concerned with the essential issue.

His majesty added: Jordan will not pursue the road to a solution through the proposed idea of home rule, currently taking place under the present conditions of occupation and which does not include a clear answer to the Palestinians fate; that is, the principle of self-determination for the Palestinian people on their soil.

His Majesty King Husayn said that if the Palestinians are provided with the opportunity to practice their right of self-determination and their other rights, they will constitute a real and positive support for peace in the area. His majesty added: The Arab brothers who met in Baghdad did not announce the closure of the door to just peace, but we shall continue our efforts to entrench our rights and establish a just and lasting peace.

Concluding his speech, His Majesty King Husayn said: My remarks come as a friend of your country. Our people look upon your country as an example of economic and technical development. Jordan constantly looks forward to becoming an example in the Arab area by exploiting its limited resources, potentials and the efforts of its sons and the help of friends.

Husayn's Press Conference

JN0819547Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Nov 78 JN

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn today said at a press conference he held in Gymnich Castle that a just and lasting peace cannot be achieved in the Middle East except through the restoration of the Arab territories occupied by Israel in 1967 and the restoration of Arab sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem and insuring of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

His majesty said that the Camp David accords are ambiguous with regard to the issues pertaining to the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the occupied Golan Heights as well as to the future of the Palestinians. His majesty added that Jordan feels it is neither legally nor morally committed to participate in negotiations based on the Camp David accords. He further said: We feel it is impossible for us to accept the formulas achieved at Camp David or the accords stemming from that conference. He added: We believe that to achieve an Israeli-Egyptian solution is not a solution to the problem.

In reply to a question on the possibility of imposing sanctions against Egypt, his majesty said: Should a unilateral peace be achieved with Israel, measures of a preventive nature will be taken to protect others' interests.

IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER TO ARRIVE 9 NOVEMBER

JN090651Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Nov 78 p 1 JN

[Text] AD-DUSTUR has learned that Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi will arrive in Amman today on a visit to Jordan that will last for several days. During his visit to Amman, Sa'dun Hammadi will meet with several senior Jordanian officials.

BEIRUT REPORTS ON 8 NOV CABINET MEETING

NC0817272 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Nov 78 NC

[Text] This afternoon, the following official information on the cabinet meeting was released:

His excellency the president briefed the cabinet on the outcome of the Arab summit conference in Baghdad. An assessment was made of the outcome in light of conference decisions on Lebanon. The cabinet also dealt with the general internal situation and focused particular attention on security and methods leading to improving the situation and consolidating stability.

The cabinet also assessed the steps taken to implement the Bayt ad-Din resolutions and subsequent decisions made by the cabinet in its executive program. It also assessed the steps that could be taken during the forthcoming phase, taking into account progress made on the executive plan which various concerned circles were asked to draw up in implementation of the cabinet decisions.

The cabinet also discussed a number of routine topics on the agenda and adopted decisions on them.

SECURITY DIRECTORATE COMMENTS ON RECENT REPORTS

NC0819452 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Nov 78 NC

[8 November statement by Directorate General of Public Security]

[Text] In reply to unofficial reports regarding matters related to the functions of the Directorate General of Public Security, this directorate wishes to clear up the following points:

1. No passports have been issued to non-Lebanese citizens and no public security officer has been given any passports for distribution not signed by the director general of public security or the director of the Passport Bureau.

2. Contrary to what was reported, it was not decided to transfer the offices of the Directorate General of Public Security to Al-Basta at-Tahta. Such a possibility was not even considered.

3. The public security commisioners are carrying out their duties at Beirut airport most adequately without any supervision by any armed elements. They have never been subjected to any harassment by any party.

This directorate, out of a desire to prevent the publication of confused and fabricated news, denies--part and parcel--those reports and appeals to those news sources to practice accuracy before reporting such information, which causes harm to the situation in the country.

NATIONALIST MOVEMENT LAUDS ARAB SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS

JN0909512 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 9 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 9 Nov--The Lebanese Nationalist Movement welcomed the resolutions of the Baghdad Arab summit. The Lebanese Nationalist Movement emphasized that the Baghdad Arab summit contributed greatly to achieving a unanimous Arab stand on the required minimum to confront the Camp David agreements and the treacherous scheme of As-Sadat's regime as well as all capitulatory plans in general.

In a statement issued here last night by the Central Political Council, the Lebanese Nationalist Movement called for consolidating all efforts to safeguard the Baghdad summit's resolutions against any liquidation attempts. The Lebanese Nationalist Movement also called for prompt implementation of the resolutions.

Outlining the joint work charter between Syria and Iraq, the statement stressed that the Joint Charter is a beginning for correcting Arab disunity. Furthermore, the charter has opened a great strategic opportunity for nationalist Arab regimes and forces to further strengthen Arab solidarity.

The statement added that Iraqi-Syrian cohesion forms the core of the northeastern front and a foundation for well-organized cooperation among nationalist Arab regimes. Iraq-Syrian cohesion will further help to establish the widest nationalist front on the popular Arabic level.

AS-SAYYAD MAGAZINE TO BE PUBLISHED IN PARIS

NC0911185Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1034 GMT 9 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 9 Nov--Bassam Furayhah, director general of the Lebanese AS-SAYYAD publishing house, stated that the weekly AS-SAYYAD magazine will be issued in Paris.

In a statement published by AS-SAYYAD magazine today, Furayhah adds that the reason for the move is not political but a desire to insure continued publication of the magazine following recent events which paralyzed the issuance of papers and magazines by the house for more than 4 weeks.

It is recalled that AL-HAWADITH magazine has not appeared for 3 weeks and that it might be published in London shortly.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS ON SECURITY SITUATION

NC0907045Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 9 Nov 78 NC

[Excerpts] Sporadic shooting continued to be heard last night along the Sinnin-Mills lines in the 'Ayn ar-Rumannah area and along the Badaru-at-Tahwitah line. That was also true in the old commercial center in the heart of the capital.

Calm continues to prevail in the eastern suburb of Beirut, particularly in the Sinn al-Fil-Ad-Dikwanah area.

According to security reports received from the north, armed members of the Syrian Socialist National Party and of the Giants [Franjiyah's armed militia] traveling in five cars attacked (As-Sur al-'Ardah) Township in Al-Batrun District. They opened fire on peaceful citizens in their homes, killing 70-year-old Niqula Farah Bayyum and 20-year-old Bassam Ya'Qub Shabib, and wounding 65-year-old Ilham Bishara. Salah Yusuf Farah was kidnaped.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD COMMENTS ON ARAB SUMMIT RESULTS

JN081356Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad expressed his deep and complete satisfaction with what was acheived at the ninth Arab summit conference.

In reply to a question by the chief editor of SANA on his excellency's opinion about the results of the summit conference, the president said: I have returned from the ninth Arab summit conference feeling deep relief and complete satisfaction with what was achieved by the conference and the meetings that took place on its periphery. The summit conference succeeded in achieving the goals for which it was convened regarding the Arab nation's assertion of its rejection of the defeatist and capitulatory course of the ruling regime in Egypt. The summit also affirmed the nation's will to consolidate the line of steadfastness so as to thwart the Camp David accords and their repercussions and to continue the struggle to achieve the just peace aspired to by our nation--peace based on liberation of all occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's rights in a manner preserving the dignity of the Arab nation and the honor of future Arab generations.

The president stressed that the results achieved by the Arab summit conference will have a great influence on determining the future of the region. The results, he added, have proved to the world that the future of this region is determined in the region and by the will of the Arab nation--not in foreign capitals. The president added that the feeling of responsibility that permeated the meetings of the brother conferees helped to consolidate Arab solidarity against the Zionist enemy and capitulatory policies. The conference resolutions affirmed that the Arab nation does not relinquish its rights and that it is capable of confronting all difficulties and challenges. To sum up, the president added, the conference proved the nation's determination to achieve a just peace inasmuch as it proved its determination to reject having capitulation imposed on it.

AS-SADAT PRESSURING GAZA, WEST BANK CITIZENS ON SELF-RULE

JN081718Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Nov 78 JN

[Text] Cairo--As part of his chain of treason, Egyptian ruler Anwar as-Sadat is now launching a campaign of pressure on a number of Palestinian personalities in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank in an attempt to force them to support the self-rule plot.

Quoting well-informed sources in Amman, the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM reports that As-Sadat had dispatched many secret agents to the West Bank and Gaza Strip via Israel to force some personalities to succumb to the Egyptian scheme pertaining to the capitulatory settlement. The sources added that As-Sadat's agents are trying to find negotiators by misleading Arab citizens into thinking that this is the last opportunity to join the Egyptian side to the capitulationist talks.

Information indicates that As-Sadat's endeavors have been unanimously rejected by Arab citizens in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

MAURITANIA

OULD SALECK SPEAKS TO JOURNALISTS AFTER GISCARD MEETING

LD082354Y Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 Nov 78 LD

[Summary] "Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, chairman of the Military Committee for National Recovery [MCNR] and head of government, had talks with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing in Paris. On leaving the Elysee Palace, the chairman told journalists who were waiting for him that the dynamic of peace in the Western Sahara that emerged last July continues. His excellency added: Contacts between Mauritania and the POLISARIO movement are continuing.

"At the Elysee President d'Estaing gave a luncheon in honor of Chairman Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck followed by a 45-minute meeting. His excellency said that he came to France to discuss Mauritanian issues. He added that we are facing a broad program for national reformation at all levels, particularly in the economic field and that France's role in the reformation is very important.

"As to the solution of the Sahara problem, Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck explained that the [word indistinct] solution is the one to be agreed upon by all states and parties concerned and in particular one which guarantees (?the stability) of the region. Answering a question as to whether the road to peace passes through Paris, his excellency said that France can help in the achievement of peace in the region. He said that the Committee of Sages formed by the OAU which will meet in Khartoum at the end of this month is the base from which all [word indistinct] solutions will branch.

"As to relations with Morocco, his excellency explained that he believes they are very good. He said that to describe the Moroccan attitude as intransigent is harsh and unfounded. He said: I only know the friendship which should bring the two peoples together and we should maintain that friendship with care. He was asked about the various mediation delegations and said they are continuing and their results are encouraging. Lt Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck arrived in Paris yesterday on a visit which ends tomorrow."

He will have talks with several French officials, including the ministers of cooperation, economy, defense and the secretary of state for foreign affairs.

INTERIOR MINISTER WARNS EXTREMISTS, STATES CULTURE POLICY

PA081647Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1457 GMT 7 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 7 Nov (AFP)--Mauritanian Interior Minister Maj Jiddou Ould Saleck issued a stern warning on Monday to "extremists of all parties" following threats of teacher and student strikes to protest Education Minister Seck Mame Ndiack's remarks on the Arabization policy in Mauritania.

During an interview with the national press several days ago, Seck Mame Ndiack came out in favor of remaining bilingual (Arabic and French) "in the country in the future," thus implicitly questioning the Arabization program drawn up by the regime of deposed President Moktar Ould Daddah.

The interior minister noted that his colleague with the education portfolio had not "attacked either the Arab language or Arab-Islamic culture." "The formulation of the questions which were posed to him (...) led Seck Mame Ndiack to speak of French as a working language and bilingualism as a current sociocultural reality. He did not spell out a new policy on the matter," Major Jiddou added.

The interior minister then recalled "the attachment of the Mauritanian people as a whole to Arab-Islamic culture, whose vehicle of expression throughout the world is still the Arab language." He also reaffirmed the need to develop "the study of other national languages" used by the country's black African population.

The question of Arabization in Mauritania has always elicited deeply felt reactions among the local populations whose cultures (Arab-Islamic and black African) vary from one community to the next and can constitute the source of serious confrontations.

"Ill-willed agitators have been accounted for and properly identified. At the least blunder, they will be dealt with harshly," the interior minister warned. "Room will be made for Mauritanian nationalists, realistic and sane patriots," he concluded.

MOROCCO

BAGHDAD DELEGATION RETURNS; BOUCETTA COMMENTS

LD0813O4Y Rabat MAP in English 1204 GMT 8 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Rabat, 8 Nov (MAP)--The Moroccan delegation sent to the Arab summit returned here Tuesday night from Baghdad.

Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta told newsmen at the airport that Morocco at the Arab summit pressed for a total Israeli retreat and the setting up of a Palestinian homeland. At the summit, Foreign Minister Boucetta said he had "important and instructive talks" with Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr. These talks, he added, also focused on "the situation in North Africa." Iraq, along with most other Arab states, recognizes Morocco's claim to the former Spanish Sahara.

Foreign Minister Boucetta also met in Baghdad with Mauritania's President Mustapha Ould Salek. Their meeting, said Mr Boucetta, showed the "permanent concertation of policy between the two countries concerning the Committee of Sages" set up to mediate a solution to the Sahara conflict, in which both Morocco and Mauritania are embroiled.

Morocco believes that a peace in the Middle East cannot work unless it encompasses all countries, said the foreign minister.

TUNISIA

FITOURI RETURNS FROM BAGHDAD, COMMENTS ON ARAB SUMMIT

LD0817O4Y Tunis TAP in English 1608 GMT 8 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Tunis, 8 Nov (TAP)--Tunisian Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri returned to Tunis Tuesday coming from Baghdad where he headed the Tunisian delegation at the Arab foreign ministers' conference, then at the Arab summit.

Speaking about the Baghdad summit outcomes, Fitouri said that the Palestinian question was the most important one dealt with in the summit. All the participants stressed the necessity to reinforce the moral and material support to the Palestinian cause.

However it should be noticed that Arab leaders are attached to a pacific, fair and global solution that would allow the recovery of Arab occupied territories and the Palestinian people's self-determination, Fitouri added. He concluded by saying "as I personally advocated, the summit thought it was necessary to intensify the information campaign aimed at getting the Arab cause known throughout the world."

WESTERN SAHARA

SAHARAN DEFENSE MINISTRY ISSUES OPERATIONS COMMUNIQUE

LD081602Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 8 Nov 78 LD

[Summary] A communique issued by the Saharan Defense Ministry says that the Saharan People's Liberation Army [ALPS] continuing its offensive on the northern front, has had successes against the occupation troops which it attacked in the south of Morocco near Guelta Zemmour. ALPS intercepted a unit of enemy forces in an area close to Tilemsoun 30 km southeast of Tan-Tan. The enemy suffered heavy losses in men and equipment. About 12 soldiers were killed and an equal number injured. An armored vehicle and four vehicles belonging to the Moroccans were destroyed.

On the same day the ALPS forces inflicted losses at Wadi al-Fidhah, where an enemy column was ambushed. Five vehicles, including two guncarrying jeeps, were put out of action by the Saharan fighters, whose shots resulted in the death of about 15 Moroccan soldiers.

SDAR COMMUNIQUE ON GREEN MARCH ANNIVERSARY PUBLISHED

LD061546Y Algiers APS in French 1000 GMT 6 Nov 78 LD

[Summary] SDAR (liberated territories)--A press communique was issued by the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] on the occasion of the third anniversary of the 'Green March' into the Sahara launched by King Hassan II of Morocco, denouncing the expansionist spirit of the Moroccan king, his arrogance and blind intransigence in wishing to see blood continue to flow. The tragedy of the Saharan people began on the 31 October 1975, and it is a crime and immoral and inhuman injustice against the Saharan people, which will remain the shame of and affront to the Moroccan monarchy forever.

"On this occasion therefore, the Saharan people appeals to the international and African community and international organizations to assume their responsibilities for the consolidation of peace, the just conclusion of which can only be the restoration to the Saharan people of their natural rights to national independence and the territorial integrity of their country.

"The struggle to impose national independence and peace continues, the SDAR press communique says in conclusion."

BEGIN DELIVERS 'MOVING' SPEECH IN MONTREAL

TA090640Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Nov 78 TA

[Text] In Montreal, Prime Minister Menahem Begin has generated profound emotions among guests at a festive banquet. Correspondents report that Begin moved many of the guests to the point of tears. The prime minister said: There is no nation in the world which needs peace like Israel. There is no nation which has invested such great endeavors to reach peace. We prayed for peace, we yearned for it, we assumed risks and we offered sacrifices for peace. However, the road is still difficult. We are not asking for wars or for any more victories, we only ask for peace for ourselves and for our neighbors.

The prime minister voiced concern about the free world's decadence. He urged all free people from every country to unite to preserve their liberty. The banquet was attended by public figures from Montreal and by heads of the Jewish community.

PEACE TALKS SAID TO DEPEND ON 'POSITIVE' ISRAELI LINE

TA090638Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will meet this afternoon in Washington with Egypt's acting foreign minister, Butrus Ghali, and with his adviser, Usamah al-Bazz, who have returned from Cairo. The United States wishes to know whether Egypt wants to change already completed clauses in the draft agreement. If Egypt does not raise any real new demands, the existing difficulties could be overcome.

The problems still pending are the linkage between the agreement with Egypt and the future of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza; the U.S. assistance to Israel; and the oil in Sinai.

With regard to the question of linkage, our correspondent in Washington says that the cabinet did not approve a clause in the preamble, that the peace treaty with Egypt is linked to the Camp David agreements. U.S. officials believe that this question will not ultimately become an obstacle to concluding the talks.

Egyptian delegation member Al-Bazz said on departing from Cairo that his delegation would not meet with Israeli representatives unless they adopt a positive approach, as he put it. He stressed, however, that the Egyptian delegation will not leave Washington until an agreement is finally reached. He said that he had submitted new proposals to Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan which, in his view, Israel would be unable to reject.

JERUSALEM UNAWARE OF SUSPENSION ON WASHINGTON TALKS

TA091127Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Nov 78 TA

[Text] A senior government source told our correspondent Zevi Lidar that no report had reached Jerusalem yet on the suspension of the Washington talks with Egypt. Our correspondent says that this afternoon the Israeli delegation will meet with the U.S. representatives and then maybe the situation will become clear.

MINISTER BURG ON WASHINGTON TALKS, FLESHING-OUT PLAN

TA081856Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1410 GMT 8 Nov 78 TA

[Weekly press conference with Dr Yosef Burg, moderated by Yizhaq Golan, interviews by 'Aquiva Eldar, Yehoshu'a Bizur and Gid'on Reicher--time and place not given--individual interviewers cannot be identified]

[Excerpt] [Question] Mr Minister, you mentioned the Camp David talks briefly. Are you satisfied with how the negotiations in Washington are now being conducted and with the degree of participation of the cabinet, the Knesset and the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee in all the issues? There are those who are complaining that all of us, including the Knesset, even the cabinet are in a sort of fog.

[Answer] That is quite a large menu, larger than that at the Hilton or the Knesset Cafeteria. If you want the Knesset and the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee plus the cabinet, it seems to me that you forgot to mention ministers on security affairs, then all of them together. I want to give you two or three comments. I ask your forgiveness if I expand a little in order to evaluate.

First: The cabinet decided on the representation for the negotiations, that is, those who should be more intimately informed on the matters, meaning the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, which meets frequently, and the cabinet, which meets on more important matters. Concerning the Knesset Foreign Affairs Committee, apparently there has been a short circuit. I can say that every cable, all reportage at every stage, is available to the ministers who can come and read--all the members of the cabinet. The more detailed matters go first to the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, that is for about 2 weeks the cabinet has been sitting as a whole, since we come much closer to the critical points. I can say that the connection was good.

Toward the end of this week, or the beginning of next week, the prime minister and, possibly, both ministers, will return so that we can decide on matters that are undoubtedly important and difficult, but this has to be done. One of the drawbacks of a democracy and in a nervous nation, as we are, is that you argue with everyone over every clause, something that is not desirable in conducting diplomatic negotiations, since negotiation requires give and take. I am not speaking about the map, but about the technique of negotiating. So microscopes and microphones in every clause concerning the political argument do not aid the negotiations.

[Question] Do you share the views of the minister of defense, who said yesterday, before his return to the talks in Washington, that the nation must prepare itself not only for the good, but also for the bad that it can expect?

[Answer] That is always correct. There is nothing new in that. This has already been said by Garibaldi; and in an equally literary way by Churchill in his time. I agree that Weizman said something correct.

[Question] Perhaps you could explain to us what he meant by the bad?

[Answer] I do not want either to explain or to clarify, but let us assume that you need, within a certain period of time, to make a certain withdrawal and a redeployment southward, from the Negev. This is not simple, since you cannot do such things without economic redeployment as well.

This is also clear. On both the physiological and the psychological level there are similar difficulties, and I certainly believe that the nation should avoid euphoria. I was not in favor of euphoria in 1967. I was not in favor of the euphoria over the visit by the president of Egypt in November 1977. We must keep cool and calm when analyzing matters.

[Question] Dr Burg, I heard you bitterly attacking the U.S. envoy, Saunders, on the matter of Jerusalem....

[Answer] Certainly, I am prepared to do so every day.

[Question] Yes, I hope....

[Answer] ....Particularly when, as now, I am sure it will help.

[Question] Yes. On the other hand, you are the chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Jerusalem Affairs, and he spoke about the matter of Jerusalem. That committee does not meet very often, and perhaps this is a sign of the problem of the fleshing-out of Jerusalem...that word has recently become very popular. We know here, in Jerusalem, just how much this city is not developing with the rapid speed of....

[Answer] You are propagandizing against Teddy Kollek, I see.

[Question] Teddy Kollek blames the government.

[Answer] Well, I want to say that our committee coordinates between the various ministries. We are not an operative committee. Now, the term fleshing-out, the fleshing-out of Jerusalem, is one which is close to my heart, for any fleshing-out of this sort also means political backing. But anyone who can travel around the streets of Jerusalem will see, this will be one of the miracles of the building of the State of Israel. Great, beautiful quarters; several depressed areas still exist, but enormous building, which possibly could have been done faster, but then we come to the question of priorities. Do you want more Jews in the Negev; do you want more Jews in Galilee; do you want more Jews in Jerusalem? These are matters which progress only with great difficulty. I know that the Ministry of Housing and Construction, on the one hand, and the Ministry of Agriculture on the other, are dealing with the matter, which is the life and development of greater Jerusalem.

[Question] Are you satisfied with the speed of the fleshing-out the cabinet decided upon 2 weeks ago?

[Answer] I think, under the circumstances, it is a good beginning.

[Question] What form does it take in the field?

[Answer] I do not know how much of this is secret, but if we are speaking about fleshing out the existing settlements, then this is an addition of hundreds of families to the settlements, based on an authorized list.

[Question] Would it not be preferable to invest this money in Jerusalem?

[Answer] That is a question of whom you love best, father or mother. When there are no settlements around Jerusalem, then it is in trouble. Therefore, I think that a security ring around Jerusalem is necessary for Jerusalem.

We once said, nearly 30 years ago, when our dear friends in Gush 'Eziyon fell, that the defense of Jerusalem begins in 'Eziyon. We can go further and say in Qiryat Arba', but I will not get into a geographical argument. It is clear that every large town, particularly a capital, needs a hinterland.

[Question] Hinterland....

[Answer] Hinterland, a large, economic and settlement hinterland.

[Question] Mr Minister, you spoke of means. Would you permit me to ask you, are you a devotee of the new school of thought, which claims that dignity is better than grants?

[Answer] I think this is a thesis without foundation. We say in our prayers after meals: Let us not require presents or loans from a human hand. That is the ideal situation, not to receive a grant and not to receive a loan. Nevertheless, if we are praying that it should not be, it is a sign that it exists. I assume that we will go along with the formula because matters are quite complicated and you need both this and that.

[Question] Dr Burg, where do we stand today, finally? The public would very much like to know how far we are from achieving an agreement. Every day we hear announcements from different ministers, which create tension, that within a few days the matter will end at Blair House in Washington. Are we really only days from achieving an agreement, according to the reports you have received?

[Answer] Only the day before yesterday, on the eve of the elections, I refrained from making an election forecast that could prove to be incorrect within 24 hours. We will announce something when something has been achieved, and we will not announce that something may be achieved within a day or two. Often reality contradicts what was predicted. There are always optimists and those who are less optimistic. I think that the formulations by the cabinet ought to be very well considered and balanced.

[Question] The press attributed a statement to you....

[Answer] If it is good, it is by me....

[Question] No, they said that you had defined peace now as a traitorous phenomenon. That was when speeding up settlement was being discussed. Do you still claim that this movement is traitorous?

[Answer] That statement is from a headline in one of the midday papers and did not come from me in that form. I am always careful not to say things like that about people. I am certainly prepared to say that the Peace Now movement has not helped matters. It has not influenced any Arab mayor, as far as I know, to demand less from Israel. So what is the good of it, when they demand that the leaders of Israel should be content with less. I do not see the political logic in this. That statement was not mine, but my opinion of them is definitely negative.

[Question] Mr Minister, today your ministry is dealing with various planning issues, support laws and so in, in the autonomy region. I have heard from people involved in the matter that a certain neglect of this issue has been perceived in the Camp David agreements. They did not think out substantive issues completely....

[Answer] No responsible person in my ministry ever expressed himself in such a manner. The truth is that the term still needs explanation.

It is true that certainly in one of the coming cabinet sessions the issue will be brought up for debate. The term autonomy is accepted, you can find it in any dictionary, but the interpretations are different, just as the word socialism has about 125 different definitions in a classic dictionary I studied in a European university.

[Question] Will the definition be geographical or functional or....

[Answer] That is part of the argument....

[Question] On that, too....

[Answer] That is part of the argument, everyone will imagine it as he imagines it; we will do our best to see that it is good for the Jews.

[Question] Dr Burg, on the issue of Judaea and Samaria, MAFDAL has a sharper line than even the Likud. It believes that we must not give up the land of our forefathers, and we must not retreat from there....

[Answer] The position is that the land of our forefathers should also be the land of our children. Anything that restricts us in the form of a ghetto cannot be accepted by us.

[Question] So, how does all this fit in with autonomy, which is likely to lead to some sort of framework for a Palestinian state or to other things. This is the program acceptable to the cabinet in which you....

[Answer] No, pardon me, but you have already introduced into the question possibilities which those who are opposed to the autonomy program are proposing. So, in phrasing your question, do not dictate my answer to me. My answer is that the term autonomy and the period of coexistence in this form or another are intended to prevent a geographical partition and to prevent the establishment of an Arab state.

[Question] Will you recommend to your colleagues in Gush Emunim that they continue to to live within an Arab colony in Judaea and Samaria?

[Answer] Only by chance I have no daughter there, but if she were there, I would not, under any circumstances, tell her to leave. It is our moral and political duty to do everything we can to support the fleshing-out.

[Question] Does the autonomy fit in with the MAFDAL view of the future of Judaea and Samaria?

[Answer] That depends on the interpretation. If you interpret like Rashi, yes; if you interpret, maybe, like.... I believe that this is possible; we must give it our full belief. But our view is clear and sharp.

MK TALMI REJECTS YADIN'S COMMENTS ON CLASSIFIED LEAKS

TA081340Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Acting chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Me'ir Talmi, rejected the conclusions of Deputy Prime Minister Yadin that ministers appearing before the committee will not report to it on classified material. MK Talmi says he is a partner condemning the leaks from the committee, but the value of the committee will be annulled if Mr Yadin's conclusions are accepted. Mr Talmi emphasized that there are also leaks from the cabinet sessions, but that nobody ever imagines adopting collective punishment against it.

Eytan Refuses to Answer

TA081430Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Chief of Staff Lt Gen Rafa'el Eytan today refused to answer questions by members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee and contented himself with a general report on the IDF deployment in Sinai. The chief of staff said after each meeting he attends, he hears the contents of the meetings over the radio. The chief of staff told the committee members: I will not reply to your questions. Dismiss me if you wish to do so.

Our correspondent Zevi Lidar says that the government legal adviser has been invited to the committee to examine ways to prevent leaks. It is possible that it will be given the status of a Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs, as proposed by MK Pesah Grupper.

U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL AVOIDS VISIT TO E. JERUSALEM

TA090930Y Jerusalem POST in English 9 Nov 78 p 1 TA

[By Wolf Blitzer]

[Text] Washington--The State Department cancelled U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell's scheduled visit to Israel this week because his Israeli counterpart and host, Justice Minister Shemu'el Tamir, wanted to receive Bell in his East Jerusalem office, the Jerusalem POST has learned.

The U.S. regards those portions of Jerusalem captured by Israel during the 1967 war as "occupied territory," and avoids any official act which might be interpreted as even tacit U.S. recognition of Israel's annexation of that part of the city. This could have been the case had Bell called on Tamir at the Justice Ministry, located in East Jerusalem near the site of the Mandelbaum Gate, which divided the city from 1948 to 1967.

A Justice Department spokesman for Bell refused to confirm that this was the reason for the cancellation. He said only that Bell decided to cancel the visit because the timing was inappropriate, given the ongoing peace negotiations here and the possibility that President Jimmy Carter himself might shortly visit the Middle East for a treaty-signing ceremony.

But other sources here said that the issue of Bell's calling on Tamir in East Jerusalem was raised in preliminary contacts between Israeli and American officials scheduling the visit.

They noted that the negotiations and the possible Carter visit to the area were not preventing U.S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Joseph Califano from visiting Israel next week. Califano's schedule does not include any official visits to territories captured by Israel during the Six-Day War, although he, like Vice-President Walter Mondale earlier this year, might make a "private" visit to the Western Wall in the old city.

U.S. officials, rather than allowing the controversy over a Bell visit to Tamir's office to blow up into a major dispute between the two countries at this delicate time in the negotiations, decided that it would be best to cancel the entire tour.

Tamir, who visited the U.S. earlier this year as Bell's guest, had invited the attorney-general to return the visit. Bell was also supposed to address the law faculty of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

MINISTER MODA'I REPORTS ON INITIAL OIL NEGOTIATIONS

TA091153Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 9 Nov 78 p 1 TA

[By Mikha'el Grety]

[Text] The first round of talks on oil issues, in which Energy Minister Yizhaq Moda'i met with the head of the Egyptian delegation, Defense Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, ended in Washington yesterday. In a telephone call, Minister Moda'i told HA'AREZ that he believes that in the coming 2 days much is expected to happen in the negotiations on the oil fields. The pace and direction of the progress largely depends on the guidelines to be brought by the senior Egyptian official arriving in Washington today.

Mr Moda'i remarked that the political talks on the oil issue began later than the political negotiations, since before his arrival in Washington only technical issues were discussed. Mr Moda'i made it clear that the oil negotiating team that he heads intends to integrate this subject into the general Israeli-Egyptian agreement, and that the first achievement of the talks held so far is that the Egyptians are ready to discuss the oil issues along with the military-political talks, without waiting for the signing of the general agreement.

According to the minister, the need to link the talk on oil issues with the other issues does not just result from the need to reach an agreement on all issues at the same time: "The oil issue is part of the general discussion and my position is that there should not be a separate agreement on oil. Ultimately, this issue will be connected with the other issues from the point of view of ability and capability for give and take.

In answer to a question by the HA'AREZ correspondent on the gaps in the positions of Israel, Egypt and the United States, he said: "It is difficult to clearly say that the U.S. is closer to the Israeli or Egyptian position. On some subjects their position is similar to Israel's and on others it is closer to Egypt's."

Mr Moda'i noted that after his meeting with Vance the day before yesterday, the negotiations on oil were set on "the right road toward furthering this issue."

BEGIN'S REQUEST FOR U.S. LOANS TERMED 'MISTAKE'

TA091208Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Nov 78 pp 1, 3 TA

[By Dani'el Bloch]

[Excerpt] Authoritative sources confirmed that Prime Minister Begin, in his talk with Secretary of State Vance, asked for the entire U.S. aid intended for the implementation of the peace treaty with Egypt as a loan and not a grant.

It was only 2 days later that the prime minister called Vance and apologized to him for making a mistake, saying that Israel requests that the aid for the construction of the new airfields in the Negev be given as a grant and all the rest as a loan.

The Americans, who had at first been surprised that the whole sum was requested as a loan, were a little disappointed with the change.

The sources also report that dissatisfaction is being expressed in the United States with the talk coming from Israel that the United States apparently "has to finance the peace." According to the sources, the United States has not withheld its aid from Israel in the past, but it does not agree to a commitment and link between a settlement of the financial problems and the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt.

It is possible that this subject was raised in the meeting between the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis, and acting Prime Minister Yadin the day before yesterday. It seems that Ambassador Lewis also wanted to receive clarifications on the content of the cabinet decisions on the negotiations, in light of the reports of a toughening in the cabinet's position, reports which arouse concern in the United States.

LIKUD CLAIMS 'CONSIDERABLE GAINS' IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

TA091015Y Jerusalem POST in English 9 Nov 78 p _ TA

[By Sarah Honig]

[Text] Tel Aviv--With most of the results of the local elections in, it appears that contrary to earlier notions, the Likud has made considerable gains. In some Likud circles, in fact, the late returns have triggered talk about seeking earlier Knesset elections in view of the party's performance at the polls. It is now apparent that the Likud has gained control of at least 24 municipalities and local councils, whereas following the last local elections it held sway in only seven municipalities and seven local councils. The outcome of the runoff elections may yet increase the Likud's gains, as 18 of the 20 towns in which there will be a second round are presently under Labour control.

Likud sources also expressed gratification at their party's performance in the television's Knesset vote projection. They noted that most of the voters were middle class and that very few of the Likud's traditional working supporters took interest in the local campaigns and bothered to vote. The fact that the Likud could count on 46 Knesset seats from among a largely middle classes voter sample, was seen by the party as encouraging and the feeling was that the Likud could hope for as many as five or six more Knesset seats in a real national election, in which younger voters and working class voters would certainly cast their ballots, they said.

"It's a bit far-fetched to draw conclusions from local races to national politics to begin with, since local circumstances rather than party politics colour the decision to a great extent. A man like Teddy Kollek can be popular locally, or a Likud candidate can be a poor choice, or the list could be split (as was the case in Haifa), thereby influencing the outcome of the local race. Teddy Kollek's Jerusalem victory hardly makes Shim'on Peres prime minister," Herut campaign chairman Dov Milman told the Jerusalem POST last night.

"In a Knesset race, different issues are debated and different candidates are featured. We did not conduct a centralized nation-wide campaign, and our vote-getters such as Begin or Weizman hardly took part in these elections, and this would hardly be the case in the next Knesset race," he pointed out. "Besides, the public has always voted differently in local polls than in Knesset elections."

Liberal campaign chief Refa'el Hazevi expressed astonishment "at why there is great jubilation in Labour altogether. It is certainly not over any victory, so much as over the fact that they were not defeated." Likud spokesmen point out the fact that of nearly 100 municipalities and local councils, about 90 were in Labour's control after the last local elections in 1973 and only seven in the Likud's hands. [paragraph continues]

Of this, the Alignment, it was argued at Mezudat Ze'ev, lost several localities, such as Tiberias, Migdal Ha'emeq 'Afula, Pardes Hanna, Karkur, Nes Ziyyona and others, while the Likud increased its strength. In about 20 other places, 18 of which are controlled by Labour, there will have to be run-off elections, meaning that Labour control there is not assured either.

Anger was expressed over the fact that the Alignment claimed victory in such localities as Ramat Hasharon where there was a joint Alignment-Likud list and in Beersheva, where the independent winnter faced a powerful Labour campaign against him.

The new election system is also unkind to small parties, which do better in the proportional representation system used in the Knesset vote. The Alignment seems to have benefited from this, Likud spokesmen said.

The gereral mood was a mixture of jubilation at Shelomo Lahat's massive landslide in Tel Aviv and a feeling that mid-term elections are generally not kind to the ruling party. There was great bitterness at the election eve economic measures by the finance minister. The Likud, it is felt, lost many votes because of the proximity of those measures to the elections.

ALINEMENT CLAIMS GAINED STRENGTH FROM LOCAL ELECTIONS

TA091014Y Jerusalem POST in English 9 Nov 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Tel Aviv--The Labour Alignment increased its support by 18 percent compared to the 1977 Knesset elections during the recent local elections, Aharon Har'el, the party's municipal elections campaign manager, said yesterday. He said the new national trend, which included Labour's ability to hold onto the strength gained in the 1973 municipal elections, indicates the party is on a comeback course.

Har'el said the party was particularly delighted by its electoral successes in the Arab sector, where it had pushed Rakah back in important communities such as Et Tira and Et Taiyiba, where the Labour vote came to 40 percent of the ballots cast. He said Labour candidates had even eroded such a Rakah stronghold as Nazareth.

The election campaign chief noted that although they had lost the mayoralties of 'Afula and Tiberias, they received more votes in these localities than in either the 1973 municipal poll or the 1977 Knesset elections. Labour also lost control of another six councils--Ofaqim, Bet Shemesh, Migdal Ha'emeq, Ness Ziyyona, Pardes Hanna and Qadima. But, it won Ramat Hasharon, Nesher and Mizpe Ramon.

The party was especially gratified at having maintained and even strengthened its position in Haifa, while the Labour candidate won the Giv'atayim mayoralty from breakaway Quba Kreisman.

The results in Tel Aviv indicated that the party had largely maintained its position in the city council.

Har'el is now gearing the election machinery to help candidates in the second round polls due in a fortnight. He was confident of winning Hadera, Ramla, Yeroham and Yavne'el. Har'el revealed that he obtained a copy of the Likud election campaign strategy blueprint, which set out as major targets "the conquest of four city halls"--Haifa, Elat, Dimona and Bet She'an. "They failed in all four cases and our mayors were elected," he emphasized.

Labour Party Chairman Shim'on Peres told an impromptu press conference just before 1 a.m. at party headquarters, of the Alignment's gratification at its electoral success, and he indicated that the party was resuming its leading position in national politics. He said he was pleased that after last year's losses at the polls, the party had managed to recover sufficiently to achieve such a success in local government elections.

MAFDAL, ALINEMENT UNHAPPY ABOUT MK'S TRIP TO USSR

TA081531Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Members of Knesset from the MAFDAL and Alinement factions have expressed reservations concerning MK Avraham Melamed's and MK Yosi Sarid's trip to Moscow. At a meeting of the MAFDAL faction, MK David Glass said that in the invitation from the Soviet friendship committee there is a reference to the participation of members of the Knesset in the peace process in the area, and there is also a reference to a Palestinian state. Glass said that these were not MAFDAL positions. Minister Zevulun Hammer said that Melamed should reconsider. MK Shoshana Arbeli, Alinement, asked the chairman of the party, Shim'on Peres, if Sarid was going with the consent of the party's institutions. MK Sarid reacted to this letter by saying that he would not be representing the Alinement on his trip to Moscow.

Likud Chairman's Reaction

TA091204Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Likud Knesset faction chairman Avraham Sharir said he wondered why the cabinet had nothing to say regarding the Knesset members who are scheduled to depart for Moscow. He thinks the departure of the delegation is liable to undermine the prospects for peace, since it is clear that the Soviet Union has no intention of furthering the issue, and certainly not the interests of Israel. The Soviets are trying to fish in murky waters, and the cabinet ought to react to this.

MINISTER PAT ON GROUNDBREAKING IN MA'ALE 'ADUMIM

TA081824Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Minister of Housing and Construction Gid'on Pat says that the work of groundbreaking, which has begun in the Ma'ale 'Adumim area is not an infringement of the freeze on establishing new settlements in the territories. He emphasized that the work was being done in the framework of the program to flesh out the existing settlements in the territories. Minister Pat made this statement to our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer.

CONDUCT OF IMPERIAL FAMILY TO BE INVESTIGATED

LD081726Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Nov 78 LD

[Text] The following statement has been issued by the Imperial Court:

As the blessed will of his imperial majesty the shahanshah aryamehr is devoted to the fact that the members of the imperial family, in their conduct and actions, should pay the necessary attention to respect for the laws and should observe the moral principles and dignity and the right of justice, by imperial command a mission led by His Excellency Jamaloddin Akhavi has been delegated to investigate within 2 months and with complete authority the properties and wealth of the members of the imperial family and the manner in which these were obtained. In those cases where actions have taken place contrary to the laws, regulations or the right of justice and moral foundations and the dignity of the imperial family, the mission is to take immediate action to bring those who deserve it to justice and to publish the details of such deeds for the information of all.

Dr 'Aliqoli Ardalan, minister of the Imperial Court.

ARREST OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA ORDERED

LD081820Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1800 GMT 8 Nov 78 LD

[Text] The following statement was issued this evening by the military governorate of Tehran and district:

Mr Amir 'Abbas Hoveyda, the former prime minister, has been arrested in accordance with Article 5 of the martial law provisions, approved in 1911.

The military governor of Tehran and district, General Gholaam'ali Oveysi.

Further Arrest Details

TA081659Y Paris AFP in English 1657 GMT 8 Nov 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Nov 8 (AFP)--Long-time former Iranian Prime Minister Amir Abbas Hoveyda was arrested today under the martial law, it was officially announced here. Mr Hoveyda, 58, was Iranian prime minister from 1965 to 1977.

The announcement was made by the military administration and given over state television today following the arrest yesterday of 12 prominent Iranian figures, many of them former ministers.

Mr Hoveyda had been under house arrest for several weeks and just earlier today, when contacted by A.F.P. said he doubted whether he would be actually imprisoned as he believed files on him were "good." He is the highest-ranking Iranian personality detained by the new military regime so far in its two-day crack-down on corruption and abuse in high places.

REVIEW COMMISSIONS ORDERED BY PRIME MINISTER

LD091052Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 9 Nov 78 LD

[Text] A circular has been issued by Prime Minister General Azhari, addressed to governors general and governors concerning securing calm and security in their regions.

According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, the circular says:

This is to require you, upon receiving this directive, to set up a commission under the chairmanship of the governors general in provincial capitals or cities, or under the military governors in areas under martial law or under the governor, and composes of security officials, a number of religious leaders and a number of trusted local people to carry out comprehensive reviews of the regions, to identify and arrest inciters, and to take action with the utmost vigor to guarantee the security of the regions. In doing this, in particular take advantage of suggestions, guidance and solutions offered by eminent ayatollahs and trusted local people, and resources at your disposal. With the formation of this commission and cooperation among you, I expect the commission to be able to restore the calm peace of the regions. The commission will meet under the governor general, the governor or the military governor whenever necessary, but at least once a week.

ACTIONS OF 9 NOVEMBER MAJLIS SESSION REPORTED

LD090844Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0800 GMT 9 Nov 78 LD

[Text] In its open session today the Majlis approved the lifting of the parliamentary immunity of Mansur Yasini, Majlis deputy from Tehran, by majority vote and communicated the matter to the government.

According to our parliamentary correspondent Fariborz Forughi, during the session, which was presided over by [Majlis speaker] Mr Javad Sa'id, the Majlis speaker referred in a speech to the shahanshah aryamehr's message of 6 November and said: All the representatives of the Iranian nation support and accept this message. With decisive conviction and drawing inspiration from this hopeful message, the Majlis deputies will continue on their path to achieve religious and national objectives.

The speaker said: I deem it necessary here to express the gratitude of all the deputies for the two [Imperial Court] communiques relating to the imperial family and the future programs of the Pahlavi Foundation issued on orders of the shahanshah.

Later in the session the resignation of Mr Bani Ahmad, Majlis deputy from Tabriz, was communicated to the deputies. This was followed by the reading of a report by the Majlis justice committee regarding lifting the parliamentary immunity of Mr Mansur Yasini. The report describes how Mansur Yasini imported glass products and sold them at high prices, as well as his collusion with glass producers and retailers.

MINISTRY DENIES STRIKING TEACHERS WILL BE FIRED

LD081745Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Nov 78 LD

[Text] In its Persian language newscast last night, London's BBC radio reported that if teachers in various Iranian cities absented themselves for 4 days from their classes they would be dismissed. A Ministry of Education and Training official referred to this report as being without foundation and said: This report has been disseminated by ill-wishers who, by misrepresenting the facts, wish to popularize the method of rumormongering and telling lies. The official said: The absentees are dealt with in accordance with what is stipulated by the administrative system and the report by London's BBC radio is only conceived by rumormongers who still wish to confuse public opinion by creating lies.

MINISTER PROTESTS HARMFUL REPORTING OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

LD091122Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 9 Nov 78 LD

[Excerpt] Mr 'Ameli-Tehrani, the minister of education and training, in an interview with the Voice of Iran correspondent, strongly denied a BBC report that if the teachers do not return to work within 4 days they will be dismissed. He expressed the hope that never again will any authority or voice other than the country's official sources make decisions on behalf of Iranian teachers. He added that from now on measures will be taken so that no foreign voice will again be allowed to give harmful information in matters concerning the internal affairs of Iran.

CHANCELLOR OF TEHRAN UNIVERSITY RESIGNS

LD081240Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 8 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Dr Sheybani, chancellor of Tehran University, has resigned his post.

FORMER CHANCELLOR DENIES UNIVERSITY OCCUPIED BY MILITARY

LD081740Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Last night BBC radio reported that Tehran University was occupied by military forces, that tanks and armored cars were deployed in the university and that a professor had been killed. Following this report, a few minutes ago Dr 'Abdollah Sheybani, former chancellor of Tehran University, telephoned to completely refute this report. [passage indistinct]

RESIGNATION OF SHIRAZ UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR NOT ACCEPTED

LD081238Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 8 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Dr Farhang Mehr resigned from his post as chancellor of Pahlavi University, Shiraz, on Sunday, 5 November, and submitted the text of his resignation to the university council on Monday, 6 November. However, the university council then wrote a letter to Dr Mehr saying that at this sensitive time all of us are dutybound not to abandon our responsibilities and should continue to carry out our duties.

According to a PANA report, an informed official from Pahlavi University said: In view of the fact that Dr Farhang Mehr's resignation was submitted to the previous government, the university council believes that after the fall of that government Dr Farhang Mehr is not considered as having resigned.

The PANA correspondent reported that after the publication of the news of Dr Farhang Mehr's resignation, the academic and nonacademic cadres of Pahlavi University, as well as the medical and administrative cadres of the hospitals attached to the university, asked him to withdraw his resignation.

KUWAITI PAPER REPORTS SOVIET CONCENTRATIONS ON BORDER

NC091200Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1142 GMT 9 Nov 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 9 November--The Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA' today reports that there have been serious reports that the Soviet Union has massed its troops along the northern border of Iran. Tabriz is near this border.

Quoting informed Gulf sources, the paper adds that a U.S. aircraft carrier has moved in the direction of the area, in order to be close to Iran in the present explosive situation.

ESFAHAN BUS WORKERS CALL END TO STRIKE

LD0813462 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 8 Nov 78 LD

[Text] Workers of the Esfahan and suburbs bus company returned to work today. According to our correspondent's report from Esfahan, a meeting was held in the presence of the governor, the mayor, the managing director of the Esfahan and suburbs bus company, a group of the company's employees, and representatives of the workers' union at the Esfahan and suburbs bus company headquarters. At this meeting, the workers' representative announced: Although our 5-day-old strike was called in order to achieve the realization of trade and welfare needs and had no political connotation whatsoever, nevertheless, in following the orders of our shahanshah and responding to his patriotic and national intentions asking workers to end their slowdowns, we hereby end our strike.

AFGHANISTAN

AMIN COMMENTS ON CURRENT SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY

LDT091014Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Oct 78 LD

["Text" of interview granted by Hafizollah Amin, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Afghanistan, to a correspondent of the Hungarian journal ORSZAG VILAG at the Foreign Ministry in Kabul on 24 October--read by announcer]

[Text] Question: What do you consider to be the greatest result of the Sowr revolution?

Answer: Everyone knows that the greatest result of the great Sowr revolution is the transfer of political power from the exploiting classes and strata to the working class--that is to its party, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [DPA]. This party represents the farmers, progressive intellectuals and all workers in the country under the guidance of the great leader of the people, president of the Revolutionary Council and DRA Prime Minister Nur Mohammad Taraki. The pride of this victory is not confined to the toiling people of Afghanistan but belongs to all the world revolutionary masses. This by itself is the best example of the daily increasing strength of the workers and liberation movements in the world, peace and social progress against imperialism, war, the black and antiquated international reaction.

In addition, with the victory of the Sowr revolution, effective and important measures have been taken for the realization of the rights and interests of the working class, for millions of farmers who own little or no land and other toilers in the country; and this is reflected at its best in the DRA Governmental Decree No 6 and 7, initiated by our great leader Nur Mohammad Taraki and which relieved about 11 million of our toiling farmers and their family members from the heavy burden of usury, mortgage and loan interest owed to oppressive feudals, whereby they have benefited by about 30 billion Afghanis. Similarly, millions of young boys and girls have been freed from the enslaving feud list restrictions.

Among the other achievements of the revolution is also the closure of the gates of the prisons and the opening of schools. About 10,000 prisoners were released on the illustrious order of the president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA; and instead, doors were opened at some 400 schools, universities and educational institutions to the sons of the homeland. I do not wish to take up your time by giving further details on the Sowr revolution; but I draw your attention to the most important (?works) of the revolutionary state which were described in a report by the president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA which he submitted to the latest session of the Revolutionary Council which has also been published in the newspapers.

Question: What are the most urgent tasks of the government of Afghanistan for the near future?

Answer: The important and urgent tasks for the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Government for the near future are the taking of necessary measures for the completion of the 5-year development plan and the realization of the deep desire of the noble and hard-working farmers of Afghanistan for the implementation of land reform. These measures are being taken in order to attain the high aim of providing bread, clothes and shelter for our toiling people, relieving them from the enslaving conditions of feudalism and for realizing a just society free of the exploitation of man by man.

In addition, it is envisaged to prepare the ground for the blossoming of the talents of the sons of the various nationalities of Afghanistan in a spirit of complete equality, fraternity and free of all forms of discrimination.

Question: How would you describe the situation in villages?

Answer: Everyone knows that the demagogic Nadori family kept the toilers in the country's villages in the worst conditions imaginable; they were very scared of the awareness of the farmers and toilers; hence, they did not avail the villagers of the slightest possibility for civilised living. Feudalist oppression and domination was adding to the despair of the toiling village people every day. But the PDP of Afghanistan extended its roots in all the country's villages; it occupied a place in the hearts of the toiling farmers; they learned its principles, and with the victory of the Sowr revolution, the deep and extensive support of the village toilers for the PDP and their complete solidarity under the leadership of the wise popular leader, Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary general of the PDP Central Committee, has been proved in practise.

The issuance of Decrees No 6 and 7, and the creation of cooperatives and cooperative funds further strengthened the revolutionary and popular movement in the villages so much so that the village toilers are seeing the possibility for the realization of all their wishes in action; and with great revolutionary enthusiasm, are looking forward to the implementation of land reforms.

INDIA

DESAI, FERNANDES COMMENT ON GANDHI VICTORY

BK0817l5Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1700 GMT 8 Nov 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 8 (AFP)--Mrs Gandhi cannot be written off as a political leader, George Fernandes, industry minister and ruling Janata Party's campaign manager in the recent Chikmagalur by-election, admitted here today, commenting on the former prime minister's re-election to Parliament.

He said that the perpetual factional quarrel in Janata was among the major factors that contributed to its nominee's defeat against Mrs Gandhi. He said a typical comment he had heard during the campaign was: You (Janata) fellows are quarreling.

Mr Fernandes observed: Never write off Mrs Gandhi or for that matter any politician.

Prime Minister Morarji Desai said he attached no importance to the by-election result.

Commenting to reporters at Shillong, eastern India, where he is currently on a tour, Mr Desai noted that it would not affect his ruling Janata Party but could lead to floor crossing between the official Congress Party and Mrs Gandhi's breakaway faction.

Further Commentary

BK0908l8Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Nov 78 BK

[Text] More reactions are coming on the result of the Chikmagalur byelection to the Lok Sabha. The AICC [All-India Congress Committee] general secretary, Mr Pant, and the secretary of the Congress Parliamentary Party, Mr (Devendranath Dewedi), have said Mrs Gandhi's success will strengthen the opposition.

The general secretaries of the Uttar Pradesh unit of the Janata Party and some others have requested the party leadership to set the house in order, taking a lesson from the by-election.

Mr Raj Narain said Mrs Gandhi had exploited effectively the mistakes of the Janata Government.

The leader of the CPI [Communist Party of India] group in Parliament, Mr Govindan Nair, said Mrs Gandhi might now announce the merger of the two congresses, for which she already has a formula ready with the connivance of Mr Swaran Singh and others.

Acharya Vinoea Bhave, now observing silence, is reported to have clapped his hands with joy on hearing about Mrs Gandhi's victory.

The chairman of the Minorities Department of the Congress-I, Mr (Khurshid Alam Khan) has said the Chikmagalur by-election proves that the people, particularly the minorities, are disillusioned with the performance of the Janata Party.

Congress-I units throughout the country celebrated Mrs Gandhi's victory with processions and jubilation. The Congress-I Parliamentary Party is meeting in New Delhi today to felicitate Mrs Gandhi.

GANDHI NOT TO BECOME OPPOSITION LEADER

BK081612Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Nov 78 BK

[Text] Mrs Gandhi has described the [Chikmagalur] byelection result as victory of the people. She said she is not interested in becoming the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Commenting on the election result, the CPI [Communist Party of India] in a statement said neither Mrs Gandhi nor the Janata Party Government can solve the acute problems faced by the country. The statement calls for unity of left and democrat parties. The CPI chairman, Mr S.A. Dange, expressed happiness over the result.

PAKISTAN

BENAZIR BHUTTO PETITION REFUSED BY LAHORE COURT

BK081609Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Nov 78 BK

[Text] The Lahore High Court has issued a clarification regarding a constitutional petition [challenging Haq's assumption of office of presidency] filed by Miss Benazir Bhutto. The clarification says that Mr Justice Gul Mohammad Khan sent the petition to the chief justice so that he could convene a larger bench to hear the petition, as it involved important constitutional questions. Mr Justice Gul Mohammad Khan has not admitted the petition for hearing.

SRI LANKA

BANDARANAIKE PETITION UPHELD BY COLOMBO COURT

BK091003Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Nov 78 BK

[Text] In Colombo, the Court of Appeal has upheld the former Sri Lanka Prime Minister, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike's claim that the special presidential commission probing the record of her 7-year rule had no powers to proceed against her. The government announced it is appealing against the judgment so that the matter would now go to the Supreme Court.